NUMB. CCCCXLIX.

The SPECTATOR.

——Tibi ſcriptus, Matrona, libellus. Mart.

Tueſday, Auguſt 5. 1712.

WHEN I reflect upon my Labours for the Publick, I cannot but obſerve, that Part of the Species, of which I profeſs my ſelf a Friend and Guardian, is ſometimes treated with Severity; that is, there are in my Writings many Deſcriptions given of ill Perſons, and not yet any direct Encomium made of thoſe who are good. When I was convinced of this Error, I could not but immediately call to Mind ſeveral of the Fair Sex of my Acquaintance, whoſe Characters deſerve to be tranſmitted to Poſterity in Writings which will long out-live mine: But I do not think that a Reaſon why I ſhould not give them their Place in my Diurnal as long as it will laſt. For the Service therefore of my Female Readers, I ſhall ſingle out ſome Characters of Maids, Wives and Widows, which deſerve the Imitation of the Sex. She who ſhall lead this ſmall illuſtrious Number of Heroines ſhall be the amiable *Fidelia*.

Before I enter upon the particular Parts of her Character, it is neceſſary to preface, that ſhe is the only Child of a decrepid Father, whoſe Life is bound up in hers. This Gentleman has uſed *Fidelia* from her Cradle with all the Tenderneſs imaginable, and has view'd her growing Perfections with the Partiality of a Parent, that ſoon thought her accompliſhed above the Children of all other Men, but never thought ſhe was come to the utmoſt Improvement of which ſhe her ſelf was capable. This Fondneſs has had very happy Effects upon his own Happineſs, for ſhe reads, ſhe dances, ſhe ſings, uſes her Spinet and Lute to the utmoſt Perfection: And the Lady's Uſe of all theſe Excellencies, is to divert the old Man in his eaſy Chair, when he is out of the Pangs of a Chronical Diſtemper. *Fidelia* is now in the twenty third Year of her Age; but the Application of many Lovers, her vigorous Time of Life, her quick Senſe of all that is truly gallant and elegant in the Enjoyment of a plentiful Fortune, are not able to draw her from the Side of her good old Father. Certain it is, that there is no Kind of Affection ſo pure and angelick as that of a Father to a Daughter. He beholds her both with, and without Regard to her Sex. In Love to our Wives there is Deſire, to our Sons there is Ambition; but in that to our Daughters, there is ſomething which there are no Words to expreſs. Her Life is deſigned wholly domeſtick, and ſhe is ſo ready a Friend and Companion, that every thing that paſſes about a Man, is accompanied with the Idea of her Preſence. Her Sex alſo is naturally ſo much expoſed to Hazard, both as to Fortune and Innocence, that there is, perhaps, a new Cauſe of Fondneſs ariſing from that Conſideration alſo. None but Fathers can have a true Senſe of theſe Sort of Pleaſures and Senſations; but my Familiarity with the Father of *Fidelia*, makes me let drop the Words which I have heard him ſpeak, and obſerve upon his Tenderneſs towards her.

Fidelia on her Part, as I was going to ſay, as accompliſh'd as ſhe is, with all her Beauty, Wit, Air, and Mien, employs her whole Time in Care and Attendance upon her Father. How have I been charmed to ſee one of the moſt beauteous Women the Age has produced on her Knees helping on an old Man's Slipper. Her filial Regard to him is what ſhe makes her Diverſion, her Buſineſs, and her Glory. When ſhe was aſked by a Friend of her deceaſed Mother to admit of the Courtſhip of her Son, ſhe anſwer'd, That ſhe had a great Reſpect and Gratitude to her for the Overture in Behalf of one ſo near to her, but that during her Father's Life, ſhe would admit into her Heart no Value for any thing that ſhould interfere with her Endeavour to make his Remains of Life as happy and eaſy as could be expected in his Circumſtances. The Lady admoniſhed her of the Prime of Life with a Smile; which *Fidelia* anſwered

ſwered with a Frankneſs that always attends unfeigned Virtue. *It is true, Madam, there is to be ſure very great Satisfactions to be expected in the Commerce of a Man of Honour, whom one tenderly loves; but I find ſo much Satisfaction in the Reflection, how much I mitigate a good Man's Pains, whoſe Welfare depends upon my Aſſiduity about him, that I willingly exclude the looſe Gratifications of Paſſion for the ſolid Reflections of Duty. I know not whether any Man's Wife, would be allow'd, and (what I ſtill more fear) I know not whether I, a Wife, ſhould be willing, to be as officious as I am at preſent about my Parent.* The happy Father has her Declaration that ſhe will not marry during his Life, and the Pleaſure of ſeeing that Reſolution not uneaſy to her. Were one to paint filial Affection in its utmoſt Beauty, he could not have a more lively Idea of it than in beholding *Fidelia* ſerving her Father at his Hours of Riſing, Meals, and Reſt.

When the general Crowd of female Youth are conſulting their Glaſſes, preparing for Balls, Aſſemblies, or Plays; for a young Lady, who could be regarded among the foremoſt in thoſe Places, either for her Perſon, Wit, Fortune, or Converſation, and yet contemn all theſe Entertainments, to ſweeten the heavy Hours of a decripid Parent, is a Reſignation truly heroick. *Fidelia* performs the Duty of a Nurſe with all the Beauty of a Bride; nor does ſhe neglect her Perſon, becauſe of her Attendance on him, when he is too ill to receive Company, to whom ſhe may make an Appearance.

Fidelia, who gives him up her Youth, does not think it any great Sacrifice to add to it the Spoiling of her Dreſs. Her Care and Exactneſs in her Habit, convince her Father of the Alacrity of her Mind; and ſhe has of all Women the beſt Foundation for affecting the Praiſe of a ſeeming Negligence. What adds to the Entertainment of the good old Man is, that *Fidelia*, where Merit and Fortune cannot be overlook'd by Epiſtolary Lovers, reads over the Accounts of her Conqueſts, plays on her Spinet the gayeſt Airs, (and while ſhe is doing ſo, you would think her formed only for Gallantry) to intimate to him the Pleaſures ſhe deſpiſes for his Sake.

Thoſe who think themſelves the Patterns of good Breeding and Gallantry, would be aſtoniſhed to hear, that in thoſe Intervals when the old Gentleman is at Eaſe, and can bear Company, there are at his Houſe, in the moſt regular Order, Aſſemblies of People of the higheſt Merit; where there is Converſation without Mention of the Faults of the Abſent, Benevolence between Men and Women without Paſſion, and the higheſt Subjects of Morality treated of as natural and accidental Diſcourſe: All which is owing to the Genius of *Fidelia*, who at once makes her Father's Way to another World eaſy, and her ſelf capable of being an Honour to his Name in this.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Was the other Day at the *Bear-Garden*, in 'hopes to have ſeen your ſhort Face; but 'not being ſo fortunate, I muſt tell you by way 'of Letter, That there is a Myſtery among the 'Gladiators which has eſcaped your Spectatorial 'Penetration. For being in a Box at an Ale-'houſe, near that renowned Seat of Honour above-'mentioned, I over-heard two Maſters of the 'Science agreeing to quarrel on the next Oppor-'nity. This was to happen in the Company of 'a Set of the Fraternity of Basket-Hilts, who were 'to meet that Evening. When this was ſettled, 'one aſked the other, Will you give Cuts, 'or receive? The other anſwered, Receive. 'It was replied, Are you a paſſionate Man? No, 'provided you cut no more nor no deeper than we 'agree. I thought it my Duty to acquaint you 'with this, that the People may not pay their Mo-'ney for Fighting and be cheated.

Your humble Servant,

Scabbard Ruſty.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this preſent Tueſday, being the 5th of Auguſt will be preſented a Comedy call'd, The Fein'd Innocence; or, Sir Martin Mar-all: The Part of Sir Martin to be perform'd by Mr. Bullock, and Warner by Mr. Powel. To which will be added a Farce, call'd The Stage-Coach. The Part of Nicodemus Somebody to be performed by Mr. Pack: With a Dialogue between a drunken Rake and a Town Miſs, ſung by Mr. Pack and Mr. Rainton; and the Lilli New Morrice-Dance by Mr Prince and others.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

To Morrow being Wedneſday the 6th of Auguſt, at Loyd's Coffee-houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 4 in the Afternoon (only one Cask in a Lot) 100 Hogſheads of excellent New French Clarets, viz. Margaux, Obrion, and other of the beſt Growths of France, deep, bright, ſtrong, fresh, and of the true Flavour, neat and entire; imported by Meſſieurs Tourton and Guigien directly from Bourdeaux, now in Vaults under the Houſe of Mr. Bourne in Suffolk-lane near London-ſtone in Cannon-ſtreet, and near the Bull-yard in Thames-ſtreet. To be ſeen and taſted this Day from 9 to 1, and from 2 to 6, and all to Morrow, as above, till the Time of Sale. Note, The Buyers are deſired to appear punctually at the Hour appointed, the Sale being to be compleated without Adjourning. To be ſold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane in Tower-ſtreet.

Vivifying Drops for Barrenneſs in Women and Imbecility in Men. Which renovate the vital Ferment of the Blood, rectify the languid State of all the Fluids, rouſe, fortify, and increaſe the Spirits, invigorate the Nerves, reſtore juvenile Heat, and cauſe a ſparkling Gladneſs and ardent Courage to flow in the Heart, and expand it ſelf through the whole human Syſtem, ſo aſſuredly to cure all Cold, and moiſt Diſeaſes, that by binding down the Spirits, depreſſing the Mind, and damping the noble Faculties, extinguiſh in a great Meaſure the Lamp of Life, and cauſe Barrenneſs and Imbecility. They potently ſtrengthen and corroborate all Parts of the Body, effectually promote Conception, and render both Sexes prolifick in a wonderful Manner, as very large Experience in private Practice teſtifies. It is ſold only at Mr. Osborn's Toy-ſhop, at the Roſe and Crown under St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleet-ſtreet. Price 5 s. the Bottle with Directions.

The Famous Original Venetian Strops, neatly fix'd on Boards, now brought to the higheſt Perfection, to as vaſtly to exceed all others, and for poliſhing and ſetting Razors, Penknives, Lancets, &c. are not to be paralleld, being much more durable and ſmooth, never growing rough by uſing, but ſetting Razors, &c. with greater Fineneſs and Exactneſs than any other ſort poſſible can. Price 4 s. each. Alſo the moſt excellent Venetian Metral Board of the ſame Bigneſs, for ſharping all ſorts of Knives immediately, and without Trouble to Admiration, tho' the Edge be never ſo thick or notch'd. Price 1 s. with Directions for both; are ſold only at Mr. Allerafh, at Toy-ſhop, at the Blue-Coat-Boy, againſt the Royal-Exchange in Cornhill, Mr. Paiſton's a Stationer, at the May-Pole in the Strand, and at Mr. Cooper's, a Toy-ſhip, the Corner of Charles-Court, near York-Buildings the Strand.

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